

FIRE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN HOSPITALITY PREMISES IN KISUMU CITY, KENYA



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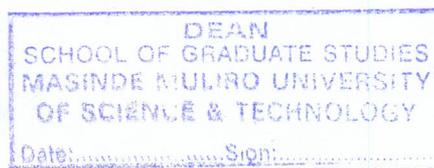
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DECLARATION



This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other university

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certify that they have read and hereby recommend for acceptance of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology a thesis entitled '**Fire disaster preparedness in hospitality premises in Kisumu City, Kenya**'.

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ABSTRACT

Fire disasters have in the recent past increased in frequency complexity, scope and intensity thereby severely disrupting the pace of socio-economic development in the country. The scope, frequency, complexity and destructiveness of fire disaster has increased due to climatic changes, limited capacity among fire emergency responders, lack of awareness, lack of enforcement of the building codes, inadequate response and coordination mechanism and rapid growth of unplanned and uncontrolled settlements among others. The overall objective of this study was to assess fire disaster preparedness in hospitality business premises in Kisumu City. The specific research objectives were to: (i) Determine the causes of various types of fire disasters on hospitality businesses in Kisumu City; (ii) Assess the impact of fire disasters on hospitality businesses (iii) Establish the status of fire preparedness among the hospitality premises, (iv) Evaluate fire preparedness strategies for a resilient hospitality industry. Both probability and purposive sampling strategies were employed to select samples units for this study with a total sample size of 86 units. The study adopted both descriptive and evaluation survey research designs. Respondents were drawn by use of cluster sampling from hospitality business personnel, humanitarian organizations and government personnel. Data collection tools included questionnaires, focus group discussions, observation checklists and key informant interviews. Quantitative and qualitative data collected from primary and secondary sources were analyzed both for descriptive and inferential parameters using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Chi-square tests were carried out to establish the degree of significance among the variables. The study has revealed that there are various types of hospitality industry players who are at risk of fire disasters. They include hotels, restaurants, bars, shopping malls and night clubs. Firefighting service provision in Kisumu apparently is grossly inadequate operating on weak capacity to sufficiently respond to the needs of hospitality industry in event of fire outbreak. The study identified emergency response inadequacy with hose reels installation in premises representing only 9%, emergency response training representing 16%, smoke detectors representing only 32% just to mention. The situation has been perpetuated over many years to the extent that fire-fighting infrastructure has nearly collapsed in Kisumu City. The findings show that the hospitality industry is vulnerable to fire disasters suffering losses of up Kshs 3 million (USD 22,472), business closure damage to equipments and loss of livelihoods. Cylinder fire extinguishers with powder are used by majority of the respondents (90 %). Hose reels are only used by 9 per cent of respondents. Another finding is that Kisumu fire Brigade is the main actor in fire emergency management with 29.7% representation while St Johns ambulance is the least representation at 8.1%. . The findings of this study will be used to bolster enforcement of fire safety regulations and ensure unified command structure to enhance effective response to emergencies.

